

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities comprising:
  - receiving identifying information on a customer from an electronic storage facility;
  - determining whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;
  - assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination; and
  - cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the received identifying information.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - retrieving identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining comprises:
  - standardizing the received identifying information; and

comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein cross-referencing comprises:

creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

7. A computer for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities, the computer comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and  
a processor, responsive to the programming instructions, configured to:  
receive identifying information on a customer from an electronic storage facility;

determine whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;

assign an identifier based on a result of the determination;  
cross-reference the assigned identifier with the received identifying information.

8. The computer of claim 7, wherein the processor is further configured to:

retrieve identifying information from the master data store based on an identifier.

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9. The computer of claim 7, wherein identifying information includes a storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting identifying information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing customers in the master data store.

10. The computer of claim 9, wherein customer data includes a customer's name and address.

11. The computer of claim 1, wherein determine comprises:  
standardize the received identifying information; and  
compare the standardized identifying information to existing data in the master data store.

12. The computer of claim 1, wherein cross-reference comprises:  
create a record in a table having a first and second field wherein the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying information.

13. A system for sharing customer information among a plurality of electronic storage facilities, the system comprising:  
means for receiving identifying information on a customer from an electronic storage facility;  
means for determining whether an identifier exists in a master data store for the customer based on the received identifying information;  
means for assigning an identifier based on a result of the determination;  
means for cross-referencing the assigned identifier with the received identifying information.

14. The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
means for retrieving identifying information from the master data store based  
on an identifier.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein identifying information includes a  
storage identifier to identify an electronic storage facility transmitting identifying  
information, a customer identifier for identifying customer information in the  
electronic storage facility; and customer data for matching a customer with existing  
customers in the master data store.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein customer data includes a customer's  
name and address.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein means for determining comprises:  
means for standardizing the received identifying information; and  
means for comparing the standardized identifying information to existing data  
in the master data store.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein means for cross-referencing  
comprises:

means for creating a record in a table having a first and second field wherein  
the first field stores the assigned identifier and the second field stores the identifying  
information.